

Course Schedule

Unless otherwise specified, readings are taken from,

St. Clair, Caroline & Visick, Jonathan (2010). *Exploring Bioinformatics: A Project-Based Approach*. Sudbury, MA: Jones and Bartlett.

	Date	Topic	Reading	Work Due
01	Thursday, 27 August 2009	What is Bioinformatics? (1) Preliminary Survey. Discuss <i>Wired</i> article. Course Expectations. Using the MathLAN. Getting started with Python.	Ratliff 2009	
02	Tuesday, 1 September 2009	What is Bioinformatics? (2) Discuss <i>Science</i> articles on dinosaur DNA. What is bioinformatics?, revisited. Studying interdisciplinary fields. Web exploration.	Chapter 1. Asara et al. 2007. Pevzner et al. 2008. Schweitzer et al. 2009.	Reading response to <i>Science</i> articles
03	Thursday, 3 September 2009	What is Bioinformatics? (3) Web exploration, continued. Programming exercises.		
04	Tuesday, 8 September 2009	The Central Dogma (1) Introduction to the Central Dogma. Related computational problems. Web exploration.	Chapter 2	Writeup of Web exploration
05	Thursday, 10 September 2009	The Central Dogma (2) Begin guided project.		
06	Tuesday, 15 September 2009	Gene Alignments (1) Continue guided project 2.5; Aligning Genes, A Biological Perspective	Chapter 3	
07	Thursday, 17 September 2009	Gene Alignments (2) Discussion: BLAST Paper. Web exploration and other fun with BLAST.	Altschul et al. 1990: Basic local alignment search tool.	Response to Altschul et al.

08	Tuesday, 22 September 2009	Gene Alignments (3) Approximate pattern matching and the Needleman-Wunsch algorithm.		On your own project (2.6)
09	Thursday, 24 September 2009	Gene Alignments (4) Continue guided project; Start HIV analysis project		On your own project (2.6) [extended deadline]
10	Tuesday, 29 September 2009	Protein Alignments (1) What's the difference? Why protein alignment is not gene alignment. Constructing similarity matrices.	Chapter 4	
11	Thursday, 1 October 2009	Protein Alignments (2) Discussion of HIV data and paper. Chapter 4 programming project.		Exploration of HIV Data
12	Tuesday, 6 October 2009	Sequence Assembly (1) Sanger-style sequencing, Basics of sequence assembly.	Chapter 5; Markham et al. 1998.	Reading Response: Markham et al.
13	Thursday, 8 October 2009	Sequence Assembly (2)		
14	Tuesday, 13 October 2009	Gene Prediction (1)	Chapter 6	
15	Thursday, 15 October 2009	Gene Prediction (2)	Kellis et al. 2003	Reflection on Kellis et al. 2003
<i>Fall Break!</i>				
16	Tuesday, 27 October 2009	Pause for Breath Review for mid-semester examination		
17	Thursday, 29 October 2009	Mid-Semester Examination		
18	Tuesday, 3 November 2009	Structure Prediction (1) About protein folding; Web exploration	Chapter 7	
19	Thursday, 5 November 2009	Structure Prediction (2) Project planning; Programming project		

20	Tuesday, 10 November 2009	Phylogenetics (1) Exams returned	Chapter 8	Response to Neanderthal and Mitochondrial DNA paper
21	Thursday, 12 November 2009	Phylogenetics (2)	Paper on Neanderthals and Mitochondrial DNA	Project proposals; Chou-Fasman Programming Project
22	Tuesday, 17 November 2009	Microarrays (1)	Chapter 9	Peer reviews of project proposals
23	Thursday, 19 November 2009	Project Kickoff Short presentations of project proposals; Discussion of Tuggle article	Tuggle article	Response to Tuggle article
24	Tuesday, 24 November 2009	Time for work on projects		
25	Tuesday, 1 December 2009	Time for work on projects		
26	Thursday, 3 December 2009	Time for work on projects		
27	Tuesday, 8 December 2009	Project Presentations (1)		
28	Thursday, 10 December 2009	Wrapup Project postmortem; What is bioinformatics?, revisited. Course evaluation. Review for final. Final comments.		Project Writeups; Portfolios

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